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MILITARY

Negative

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. US-Soviet Relations. Throughout the week statements by the new US administration were reported at length, and while significant editing was employed, the result included the release of a surprising volume of statements by the President and other administration spokesmen in a relatively undistorted form. The major item in this treatment was the publication by Pravda of a three-column summary (composed largely of direct quotation) of the State of the Union message. The summary omitted many important sections of the address including the three steps initiated by the Department of Defense, references to the Communist Chinese menace, the US lead in space science, etc., but included several passages on other sensitive subjects such as Cuba. In addition to the State of the Union message, Ambassador Stevenson's UN press conference, and both the President's press conferences, were reported at length, including an unusually balanced account in Izvestiya Feb. 2 of the most recent conference. In reporting US domestic affairs and particularly the President's economic message, heavy emphasis has been devoted to portraying economic difficulties including the consistent use of "depression" and "recession," and omitting references to the President's statements on the basic strength of the US economy.

In the only editorial reaction to the numerous US official statements to date, Izvestiya Jan. 31 took a cautious but hopeful view of the outlook for US-Soviet relations. The editorial article stressed the Soviet desire for improved relations and cited the release of the RB-47 fliers as evidence thereof. If the US pursues a policy of improving relations, Izvestiya stressed, "they can count on Soviet support."

Critical references to the US within the context of continuing Soviet reportage on Laos, Congo, and Cuba has sharply diminished and in their place general charges against NATO, colonialism, and imperialism have been substituted.

2. Laos. During the week it appeared fairly clear that the Soviets are deliberately delaying their response to the British Jan. 21 proposal regarding the ICC (which, incidentally, still has not been mentioned in the Soviet press). Possible reasons for this delay in the Soviet reply are that the Soviets believe that continuation of military operations in Laos are benefitting the Pathet Lao and weakening the Boun Oum government. The delay obviously permits the Soviets to airlift more military equipment before the ICC presence would require cessation of such activity, at least on a semi-overt basis. It seems possible that the Soviets, when they do reply, will require that the ICC deal with Souvanna Phouma in some manner and will not agree to leaving the matter of which Laotian officials the ICC will deal with entirely up to the King.

Meanwhile, the Soviet press has reported statements by Souphanouvong, Sihanouk, and Chou En-lai calling for an international conference either along the lines proposed by Sihanouk or a reconvention of the 1954 Geneva Conference on Indochina. The Soviet press continued to refer to the [illegible] "favorable disposition" of the Soviet Government to Sihanouk's proposal.

Newspapers here carried several reports concerning Kong Le's role as the commander of both his own and Pathet Lao military forces, and on Feb. 3 published a report that on January 25 Souvanna delegated responsibility to three ministers of his former cabinet to act on his behalf and designated Kamsuk Keola as acting Premier, also the report that Souvanna would soon return to Laos. These reports give the Soviet public the impression that the "legal government" of Souvanna Phouma is well supported by national military and political forces. The picture portrays this nationalist group fighting against the Boun Oum-Phoumi "rebels" which is supported by foreign elements. The Soviet purpose in presenting this picture at this time probably is designed to create support here for Soviet insistence that a reactivated ICC must deal with Souvanna and possibly to create a favorable climate for disclosure to the Soviet public of the existence of Soviet airdrop aid to Kong Le and the Pathet Lao.

The press continued to claim military successes for Kong Le and Pathet Lao forces, leaving the impression that the longer international action to settle the Laos problem is postponed, the more favorable Kong Le's and the Pathet Lao's bargaining position will be.

3. US Missile and Space Achievements. The Soviet press reported all three US missile and space achievements during the week: the solid fuel "Minute Man," the successful recovery of the chimpanzee from space, and Samos II. The significance of recent US achievements will not be lost on the Soviet public, which has been conditioned to the importance of space and missile developments in both the military and psychological spheres.

4. Africa. The Feb. 3 Soviet press announcement that USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium chairman Brezhnev would visit Guinea in the first half of February suggested that a Khrushchev visit to Africa was not in the immediate offing. There were other indications to the same effect. An Asian diplomatic mission in Moscow gained the impression in discussions with the Soviet Foreign Ministry that Khrushchev would not go to Africa before the summer, and might even wait until after the 22nd CPSU Congress (scheduled for October). It was also learned from Ghanaian Embassy sources that Nkrumah wished to visit Moscow before Khrushchev went to Ghana and might arrive in April. Meanwhile, the press announced agreement for an exchange of visits (no dates given) between Khrushchev and King Mohammed V. of Morocco.

Besides continuing the "free Lumumba" campaign and the attacks on Belgium and Hammarskjold in the press, the Soviets moved to involve Sudan in a scheme to give aid to the Stanleyville forces. Pravda (Jan. 30) published an appeal by the President of the Soviet Red Cross-Red Crescent society to Sudanese President Abboud to permit a Soviet aid shipment to Stanleyville--allegedly food, medical supplies, and twenty trucks--to transit Sudanese territory from Port Sudan. Pravda (Feb. 3) published an extensive summary of the "declaration of the Government of Congo" adopted at a Jan. 31 meeting in Stanleyville of Lumumba forces headed by Gizenga. The Soviets seemed to be moving in the direction of more open support for Gizenga, exploiting and encouraging in this connection pro-Lumumba sentiments in African countries.

5. New Soviet News Agency. Pravda (Jan. 31) reported that several Soviet organizations--the Union of Journalists, Union of Writers, and Union of Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries--had decided to establish a new news agency, independent of TASS. A meeting is to be held in February to discuss the charter, organization, and activity of the new agency. The Pravda story refers to the new agency as "an organ of mass public organizations of the USSR," and the fact that the Union of Societies of Friendship and Cultural Ties with Foreign Countries is among the founders raises the possibility that it may be intended primarily as a vehicle for propaganda directed toward new and emerging countries, leaving TASS the role of a "straight" news agency.

6. The Saga of the Santa Maria. The dramatic seizure and subsequent travels of the Portuguese liner were widely reported by the Soviet press and TV which, after an initial pause, exploited the event to denounce Salazar and Franco. First reports on the seizure were brief and factual. However, Capt. Galvao and Gen. Delgado were quickly projected as heros of a national liberation movement, and background articles on the "oppression" of the Portuguese people by Salazar now accompany the daily photographic and news coverage of the ship's course.

7. Western Leaders Meet. The short meeting between Macmillan and de Gaulle, and the planned meetings of Western leaders to follow were characterized by Soviet propaganda as "desparate manuvering" for favored positions in the "economic struggle" between Western European countries, and reflecting anxiety among NATO leaders in the face of possible improvement in US-Soviet relations. Several articles were published which were designed to demonstrate that NATO is in a state of decay and European integration is thoroughly defeated by the selfish economic interests of the "Inner Six and Outer Seven."

One interesting aspect of Soviet propaganda on the current meetings is the criticism of Gen. de Gaulle and Macmillan which has emerged.

INTERNAL

8. Leadership. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) To an even greater degree than usual when Khrushchev is away from Moscow, publicized leadership activity in the Soviet capital has been minimal. Of Party Presidium members and candidate members, normally resident here, only A.I.MIKOYAN, A.N.KOSYGIN and Ye. A. FURTSEVA made public appearances, and each only once. The impression given is that Mikoyan, (heading the Soviet delegation in the Soviet-GDR trade negotiations in Moscow), and Kosygin have been left in charge. D.S.POLYANSKIY and G.I.VORONOV have been accompanying Khrushchev on tour, first to Kiev where on January 28 he addressed a Ukrainian Party Central Committee plenum, ("expanded" by the presence of 10,000 collective farm chairmen and state farm directors), and then to Rostov where leading agricultural workers and officials of the North Caucasus area had gathered to provide a similar forum. Since the conclusion of the latter conference February 1, Khrushchev and his entourage have been visiting enterprises and farms in the vicinity of Rostov before continuing the provincial tour for which Tbilisi, Georgia is the likely next stop.

Recently elected Central Committee candidate member Voronov was identified this week with the title of deputy chairman of the important Central Committee Bureau for the RSFSR (in the absence of a RSFSR Communist Party, this bureau performs a role for the Russian Federation similar to that of a republic party bureau or the USSR CP Central Committee's Presidium). His identification in this function (See Weeka No. 4 of January 27) and his prominent performance at the Kiev and Rostov meetings casts doubt on the present status of Presidium member A.B.ARISTOV who, up to now at least, seems to have been the only deputy chairman of the RSFSR Bureau (under Khrushchev's chairmanship). A conjecture as to a possible fall from grace of Aristov is strengthened somewhat by his absence from public view for two weeks. If he has been promoted to a new position of first deputy chairman of the RSFSR Bureau or remains as deputy chairman senior to Voronov, it is strange that Voronov rather than he is accompanying Khrushchev and performing as RSFSR Bureau spokesman.

The other recently elected Presidium candidate member, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions Chairman V.V.GRISHIN is in Berlin participating in a meeting of the WFTU executive committee. (He is a WFTU vice-president.) In addition to Aristov, Presidium personages O.V.KUUSINEN, N.A.MUKHITDINOV and N.M.SHVERNIK have remained out of public view for some time. Although no activity by titular chief of state (Chairman of USSR Supreme Soviet's Presidium) L.I. BREZHNEV has been noted this past week, the February 3 press carried announcement of his pending state visit to Guinea.

9. Personnel Changes Related to Reorganization in Agriculture. V.A.KARLOV has been positively identified as chief of the important CPSU Central Committee Section on Agriculture for Union Republics (i.e., for the entire Soviet Union other than the Russian Federation). First listed by this title in Pravda of February 1, it had been anticipated by a reference in Pravda of January 27 to him as a head of a CC union republics section (G-522, January 27). As former deputy chief of the CC Section on Agriculture for the RSFSR, Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet's Commission on Agriculture, and, until recently, party boss of an agriculturally important oblast (Kalinin), his background seems suitable for his new responsibilities.

Former USSR Minister of Agriculture V.V.MATSKEVICH, now top government executive in the recently established Tselinnyy Kray of Kazakhstan, has been elected to the Kazakh party central committee bureau. This action, taken at a Kazakh CC plenum February 1, is a strong indication that he will retain chairmanship of the Tselinnyy Kray executive committee (ispolkom) when the provisional ispolkom which he heads is replaced following the first Kray Soviet elections. As his party opposite (and probable senior in influence) T.SOKOLOV already was on the republic party bureau, Matskevich's election to the bureau is additional evidence of the considerable importance attached to this virgin lands Kray.

It is worth noting that the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences has become a major recruiting ground for new agricultural appointees. In the course of a few weeks the Academy's Presidium has been depleted of three of its five members--apparently leaving First Vice President D.D.BREZHNEV in

charge. President P.P.LOVANOV was transferred to the USSR State Planning Committee (Gosplan) as a deputy chairman, Vice President M.A.OL'SHANSKIY replaced Matskevich as USSR Minister of Agriculture, and Science Section Chief V. P. SOTNIKOV has been made RSFSR Minister of Agriculture.

In the Ukraine, no action seems yet to have been taken against the Ukrainian premier N.T. KAL'CHENKO or republic Minister of Agriculture M.S.SPIVAK despite strong criticisms directed at them personally for setbacks in Ukrainian agriculture during 1960. Attacks against them personally, for example, Khrushchev's open ridicult of Kal'chenko in his January 17 speech and a January 28 Izvestiya account which blamed them both for serious deficiencies in the work of the Ukrainian Minister of Agriculture, would seem to make their positions untenable. However, Khrushchev, speaking in Kiev on January 28, hinted strongly th. t they and other persons who have been strongly criticized will be given one more chance (Pravda of February 1).

The announcement this week that RSFSR Minister of Agriculture G.L. Smirnov had been released for "transfer to other duties" may not reflect a punishment inasmuch as RSFSR agriculture was a relatively bright spot in a poor year, and he has not been singled out for criticism. Replaced by V.P.Sotnikov (see above), Smirnov may well get a suitable post in the Central Committee apparatus, for example, the top position in the CC Section on Agriculture for the RSFSR, a section in which he has been a deputy chief in the past and one for which no chief has been identified since June.

MILITARY

Negative

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